

State/Local Legislator Letter

Date

Mr. John Doe
Title
Organization
Address 1
Address 2
City, State ZIP

Mentoring: an age-old practice that pairs a young person with a caring adult who offers encourage and support and helps the young person succeed in life.

Dear Mr. Doe,

Mentoring works. We know this intuitively. We know this through research. And we also know that mentoring works the *best* when members of the community come together to invest in the future of their youth.

The [NAME OF PARTNERSHIP] acts as “mentoring central” for our [STATE OR CITY]. By bringing together leaders across the state/city, eliminating duplication of efforts and offering centralized services, we help mentoring programs make the most of limited resources. The result is better service, greater collaboration, smarter use of resources and more youth is quality mentoring relationships. We tune mentoring practitioners to the latest in mentoring research and guidelines, and educate members of our community to the benefits of mentoring youth.

In her book, *Stand by Me: The Risks and Rewards of Mentoring Today's Youth*, Dr. Jean Rhodes of the University of Massachusetts concludes that mentors influence young people in three important ways, by: 1) enhancing social skills and emotional well-being, 2) improving cognitive skills through dialogue and listening and 3) serving as a role model and advocate. And studies by the Carnegie Corporation note that when asked what teens wanted most in their free time, one of the most frequent responses was “long talks with trusting and trustworthy adults who know a lot about the world and who like young people.”

And we have more good news to share: adults would like to be mentors. In 2002, a national mentoring poll conducted by MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership showed that 57 million adults would consider becoming mentors if they had access to an array of support services and had the ability within their schedules to commit. (To view the poll online, visit www.mentoring.org/poll.)

People and organizations across our [STATE/COUNTY/CITY] are coming together and taking a stand for our youth as mentors, mentoring practitioners or sponsors of mentoring programs. We would like to meet with you to talk about how you can be part of the movement. [EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S NAME] will call your office to follow-up. We look forward to meeting with you.

Sincerely,

Chair Leadership Council

Executive Director

Attached: *Elements of Effective Practice*
State/Local information